



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/776,583	02/10/2004	Michael Lax	AUT/015	3036
1473	7590	08/07/2008	EXAMINER	
ROPS & GRAY LLP			NGUYEN, THUY-VI THI	
PATENT DOCKETING 39/361				
1211 AVENUE OF THE AMERICAS			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
NEW YORK, NY 10036-8704			3689	
			MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
			08/07/2008	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/776,583	LAX, MICHAEL	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	THUY VI NGUYEN	3689	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 10 February 2004.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-60 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) 1-60 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
 - I. Claims 1-22, 23-31, 32-43, drawn to an apparatus of a container for an asset for use with a benefit denial system, classified in class 206 subclass 308.
 - II. Claim 44, drawn to an apparatus of a locking member of a container for user with a benefit denial system, classified in class 206 subclass 387.
 - III. Claims 45-57, drawn to a method for providing a benefit of an asset to an asset user, classified in class 705, subclass 01
 - IV. Claims 58-60, drawn to a method for transacting a consignment sale of an asset, classified in class 705, subclass 01.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

2. Inventions in Groups I and II are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the invention of group I is directed an apparatus of a container for an asset for use with a benefit denial system comprising a containing element, an electrical circuit and a circuit deactivator, while invention of group II is directed to an apparatus of a locking

member of a container for user with a benefit denial system having an electrical circuit, a base is configured to support the circuit and to be inserted in the channel when the container is closed.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above, because the search required for Group I, is not necessarily required for Groups II due to their different scope and subject, and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper since it's a serious burden for the examiner to examine all of these amended claims.

3. Inventions in Groups I and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the invention of group I is directed an apparatus of a container for an asset for use with a benefit denial system comprising a containing element, an electrical circuit and a circuit deactivator, while invention of group III is directed to a method for providing a benefit of an asset to an asset use comprising receiving asset identification and providing access information.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above, because the search required for Group I, is not necessarily required for Group III due to their different scope and subject, and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper since it's a serious burden for the examiner to examine all of these amended claims.

4. Inventions in Groups I and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the invention of group I is directed an apparatus of a container for an asset for use with a benefit denial system comprising a containing element, an electrical circuit and a circuit deactivator, while invention of group IV is directed to a method for transacting a consignment sale of an asset.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above, because the search required for Group I, is not necessarily required for Group IV due to their different scope and subject, and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper since it's a serious burden for the examiner to examine all of these amended claims.

5. Inventions in Groups II and III are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the invention of group II is directed to an apparatus of a locking member of a container for user with a benefit denial system having an electrical circuit, a base is configured to support the circuit and to be inserted in the channel when the container is closed, while invention of group III is directed to a method for providing a benefit of an asset to an asset use comprising receiving asset identification and providing access information.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above, because the search required for Group II, is not necessarily required for Group III due to their different scope and subject, and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper since it's a serious burden for the examiner to examine all of these amended claims.

6. Inventions in Groups II and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the invention of group II is directed to an apparatus of a locking member of a container for user with a benefit denial system having an electrical circuit, a base is configured to support the circuit and to be inserted in the channel when the container is closed, while invention of group IV is directed to a method for transacting a consignment sale of an asset.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above, because the search required for Group II, is not necessarily required for Group IV due to their different scope and subject, and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper since it's a serious burden for the examiner to examine all of these amended claims.

7. Inventions in Groups III and IV are unrelated. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different designs, modes of operation, and effects (MPEP § 802.01 and § 806.06). In the instant case, the invention of group III is directed to a method for providing a benefit of an asset

to an asset use comprising receiving asset identification and providing access information, while invention of group IV is directed to a method for transacting a consignment sale of an asset.

Because these inventions are independent or distinct for the reasons given above, because the search required for Group III, is not necessarily required for Group IV due to their different scope and subject, and vice versa, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper since it's a serious burden for the examiner to examine all of these amended claims.

8. Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention, either group I, II, III or IV, to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Conclusions

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy-Vi Nguyen whose telephone number is 571-270-1614. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8:30 A.M to 6:00 P.M.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Janice Mooneyham can be reached on 571-272-6805. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/T. N./

Examiner, Art Unit 3689

/Janice A. Mooneyham/

Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3689